UNDRO NEWS
Special Supplement

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR
(UNDRO)

IRAQ - KUWAIT CRISIS:

The Plight of Returnees

UNDRO-chartered Antonov flies Bangladeshis home

Over 700,000 return home through Jordan

Between mid-August and mid-October 1990, one of the largest repatriation operations in recent times as well as a significant relief effort were undertaken by the international community. The United Nations family along with other humanitarian organizations played an active and effective role in this operation. In all, well over 700,000 people were assisted in returning to their countries of origin.

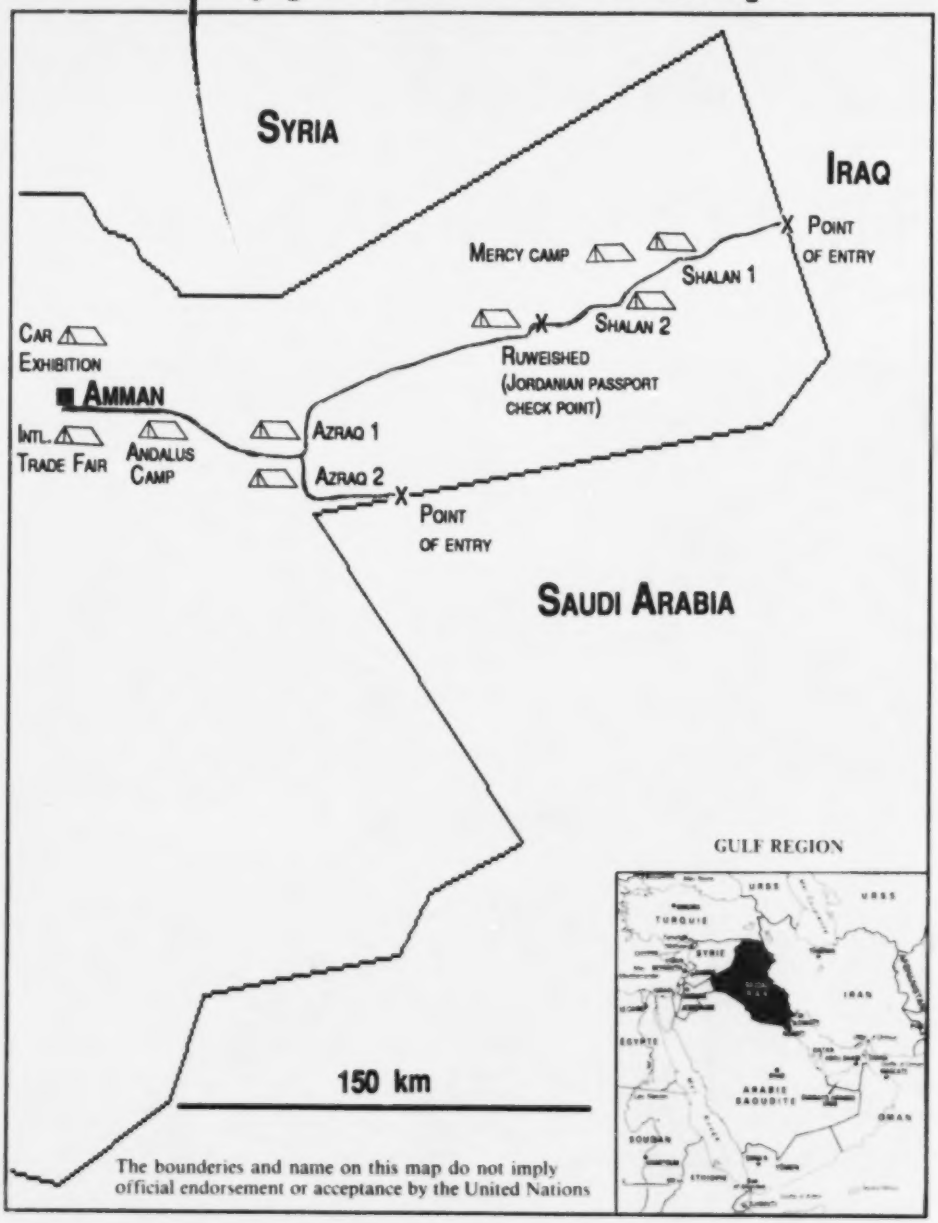
In the wake of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990, hundreds of thousands of foreign workers fled these countries in a bid to return home: the majority poured into Jordan, at the average rate of 10,000 a day, while others crossed into Iran, Syria and Turkey.

For the first two weeks, the Government of Jordan was able to cope, especially as the return of a large number of Egyptian nationals through Jordan to Egypt was facilitated by financial and logistical assistance from Saudi Arabia and the European Economic Community.

It soon became apparent however that a major international effort was required to repatriate the growing number of evacuees to their various countries of origin (Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Syria, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey and Yemen). Many Asian nationals, in particular, arrived destitute with no means of proceeding to their home countries.

The problem confronting the Jordanian border authorities was how to process, such as unprecedented influx of foreign nationals. Many thousands therefore had to remain temporarily in the border area. This led to the establishment of Shalan 1, Shalan 2 and Shalan 3 (Mercy) camps. Appalling conditions of high desert temperatures, burning dry winds, cold nights, venomous scorpions and other insects, made existence almost intolerable. Population figures were difficult to assess. At one time, Shalan 1 was believed to hold over 45,000 people in conditions which, despite almost heroic efforts by the Government of Jordan and the Jordanian Committee of the Red Crescent to alleviate them, were graphically described by the world's media in horrifying detail.

Map of Jordan
Entry points and transit camps



Immediate international response

On 23 August, the Government of Jordan sought United Nations assistance to deal with the crisis. The Secretary-General requested UNDRO (whose relief team arrived in Amman on 24 August) to coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system and provide opera-

tional assistance in support of the Jordanian Government's relief activities. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (LRCS) and numerous Non-Governmental Organizations offered their help and support. Shelter, food and health care were the priorities dictated by the situation. Fortunately, the displaced persons were, on the whole, in good health.

Massive airlifts operation gets underway

With the arrival of the UNDRO team and representatives of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which was requested by UNDRO to assume the lead role in external transport of evacuees, co-ordination and repatriation arrangements were rapidly implemented. The Jordanian authorities eased the border crossing, allowing large numbers of foreign national to travel to several reception centres in Amman.

The United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator made two visits to Amman to oversee the operation and discuss priority needs with Crown Prince Hassan, Jordanian authorities and others involved in the emergency.

What followed was a multilateral evacuation operation on a scale not seen since world War II. On one given day in early September, the number of people in transit camps, spread between the Iraqi border and Amman, topped 100,000. On average, 7,000 people were flown out Amman daily, at the rate of about 40 flights a day, while evacuees entering Jordan often exceeded 10,000. Their stay in the camps lasted about five days. In addition, inland transportation had to be organized to ferry the evacuees from the border to one of the transit camps and from there to the airport.

Effective camp management

Each transit camp was organized with a camp director who reported directly to the Jordanian authorities and who arranged for transporting evacuees within the country by chartering private buses. Each camp also had its own camp manager (International Committee of the Red Cross, League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Médecins sans Frontières, the Queen Alia Fund of Jordan and a coalition of NGOs including Save the Children Fund). United Nations agencies were responsible for operational assistance, each within its own field of competence (food, health, children). The United Nations Relief and Works Agency provided much needed internal transport and engineering assistance. The United Nations Resident Co-ordinator played a key role in facilitating co-ordination and provided, through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) administrative support for the operation.

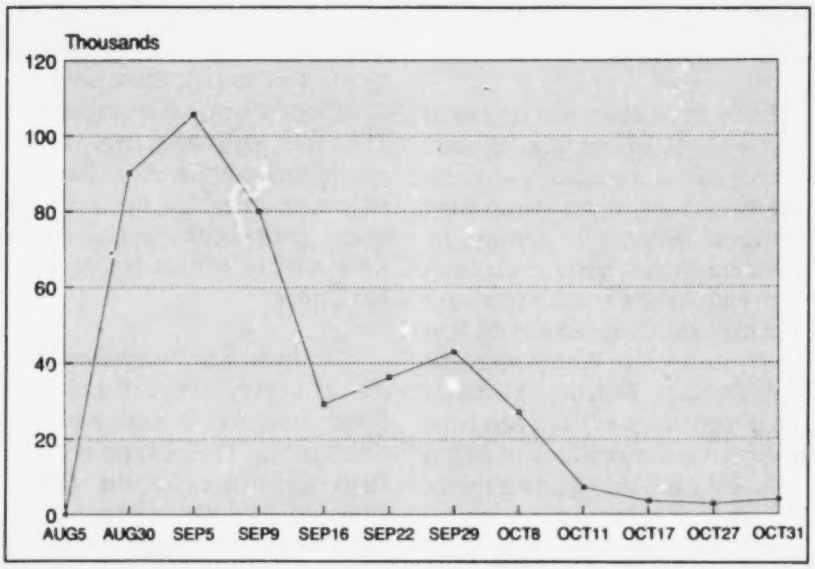
The success of this vast operation, orchestrated by the Government of Jordan in close co-operation with UNDRO and the international community, can be gauged by the fact that all those who entered Jordan between 5 August and 31 October have now returned home. No epidemics broke out in the transit camps in which the evacuees where given shelter, and no deaths were directly attributable to camp conditions.

The Jordanian Government had set up a very effective organizational structure to deal with the emergency. The Interministerial High Committee for the Evacuation of Expatriates, chaired by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of the Interior, had overall responsibility for the relief efforts. The UNDRO team was closely associated with its work, providing the necessary operational and advisory support. On 12 September, the Secretary-General also appointed Sadruddin Aga Khan as his Personal Representative for Humanitarian Assistance relating to the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait.

Regular co-ordination meetings were held in Geneva and in Amman.

READEX

Camp Population
(from 5 August to 31 October 1990)



In the meantime, several thousand other displaced persons had headed for Iran, Syria and Turkey. Between 3 and 6 September, a joint UNDRO, UNDP, WFP and UNHCR team visited the Iran/Turkey border area to assess the situation.

Those entering Iran and Turkey, mostly Bangladeshi or Pakistani nationals, were assisted by the local authorities and their embassies, and repatriated by the IOM and the European Economic Community.

UNDRO also undertook missions to Egypt, Iran and Syria to prepare contingency plans. The Syrian Government assisted a large number of Egyptians and Lebanese in addition to some 20,000 returning Syrians.

Outstanding Co-operation

Co-ordination and co-operation, was facilitated by regular meetings of an operational nature between all parties in the relief effort, representatives of donor and affected countries, United Nations agencies and the major Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental organizations involved in Amman as well as in Geneva.

> ***"With probably 60,000 foreigners still in Kuwait and over one million in Iraq, the international community cannot afford to be complacent".***
>
> ***Javier Pérez de Cuéllar***
> ***19 October 1990***

Although the first major influx of displaced persons is now over, the Government of Jordan and UNDRO remain on the alert in case a new wave of displaced persons should leave Iraq or Kuwait. It is possible that between 40,000 and 50,000 evacuees could move into Jordan before the end of the year and a plan of action has been drawn up. In addition to the prepositioning of funds and supplies to meet such a contingency, the United Nations has also called for a refund of the expenses incurred by the Government of Jordan in coming to the assistance of the evacuees. ■

Chronology of events

2 August: Invasion of Kuwait by Iraq

5 August: First foreign nationals leaving Iraq/Kuwait enter Jordan

21/22 Aug.: As situation becomes critical, UNDRO contacts UNHCR to clarify responsibilities and obtains clearance from Secretary-General's Office for UNDRO intervention

UNDRO contacts UNDP/ UNDRO Resident Representative in Amman

23 August: Jordan's call for international assistance is conveyed to UNDRO by Resident Representative in Amman

24 August: UNDRO delegates arrive in Jordan

A co-ordination meeting between Heads of concerned agencies takes place at UNHCR

UNDRO contacts Resident Representatives of other transit countries

27 August: UNDRO issues consolidated appeal for international assistance

28 August: First of a series of inter-agency meetings takes place at UNDRO

29 August: Secretary-General requests UNDRO formally to co-ordinate efforts of UN system on behalf of displaced population

3 Sept.: First repatriation of third-country nationals (Bangladesh) from Jordan on UNDRO/IOM-chartered Antonov aircraft.

The Repatriation Programme led by IOM

Two days after the appeal for assistance made by the Jordanian authorities to UNDRO on 25 August to assist in the repatriation of stranded foreign nationals in Jordan, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) sent an assessment team to Amman to evaluate the number of persons concerned, their nationalities and the kind of assistance required.

Given the urgency of the situation, the initial assessment team of two IOM staff members immediately became operational and, a few days later, other colleagues from various IOM field missions around the world were dispatched to Jordan.

As the number of people stranded in camps along the Iraqi-Jordanian border increased, repatriation was given top priority by the international community. Due to its long experience in migration activities, IOM was entrusted by UNDRO with to co-ordination of repatriation arrangements.

In order to finance the repatriation programme, IOM's Director General, Mr. James N. Purcell Jr., appealed to IOM member and observer governments and other governments affected by the crisis for funds and in-kind contributions of aircraft and ships. The initial appeal was for US $50 millions, a sum that, according to IOM's estimation, would be required to meet the most pressing transportation requirements, Mr. Purcell further requested that half of this amount be made available in contributions in kind.

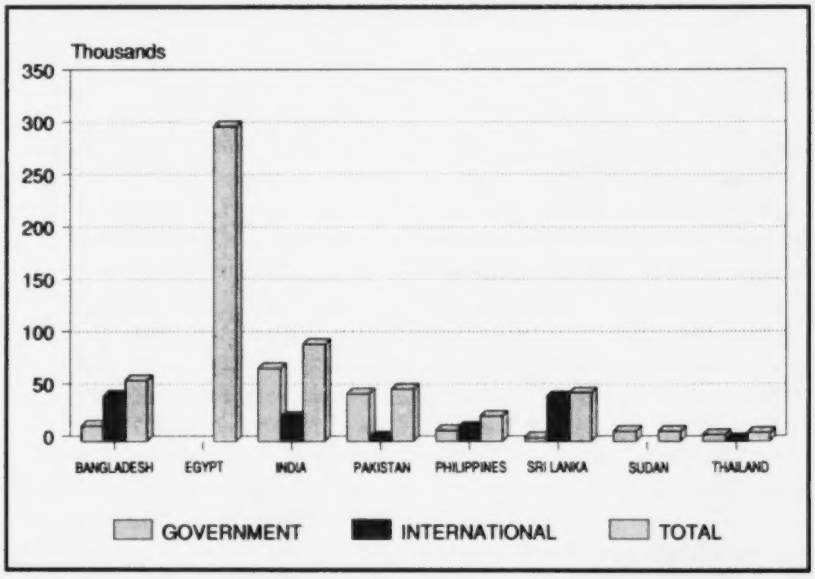
In view of the urgent and critical situation - there were at that time some 105,000 persons in the border camps - Mr. Purcell convened a special session of IOM's Executive Committee on 4 September to present the appeal and stress its urgency. Four days later, over half the US $50 million of the appeal was pledged: the repatriation process could effectively take place at the substantial level required. To date, contributions pledged by governments stand at some US $62 million, including some US $12 million in kind.

* *** *

On 3 September 1990, the first flight of the international airlift left Amman at 7 p.m. for Colombo, with 182 Sri Lankan women on board. This was the first of 526 flights which, between 3 September and 24 October, carried 127,923 foreign resident of Iraq and Kuwait to their countries of origin with IOM assistance. The numbers were as follows: 43,477 Bangladeshis, 42,722 Sri Lankans, 23,058 Indians, 13,596 Filipinos, 4,326 Pakistanis, 394 Vietnamese, 297 Egyptians and 53 persons of various other nationalities.

Repatriation of Third-Country Nationals

(At 31 October 1990)



Although the great majority of the repatriations took place from Jordan, IOM assistance has been provided in other countries in the region, namely Turkey, Iran and Saudi Arabia. In addition, a ship chartered by IOM left Aqaba, Jordan on 16 September 1990 with 1,768 Sri Lankan men and women on board. It arrived in Colombo ten days later.

By end November the repatriation assistance had not yet come to an end. In Jordan, the international airlift keeps pace with the daily ar-

rivals in the country so that people are repatriated within a few days.

In Turkey, repatriation movements have beencontinuing: on 24 October, the first flights to repatriate Vietnamese contract workers left from Diyarbakir airport with 397 passengers on board. They are part of a group of 1,117 Vietnamese who arrived at the Turkish border from Iraq. This was the first time in the whole emergency programme that repatriations are taking place in an orderly and fully co-ordinated way from inside Iraq to the final destination, as their departure from Iraq territory was organized by the Vietnamese authorities in conjunction with UNDRO.

Here again, as was the case from the very beginning, UNDRO, the EEC and IOM co-operated to make this repatriation operation successful, along with the governments concerned. To carry out these movements and those of the 25,000 to 40,000 foreign residents who are estimated to need such assistance in the near future, more funds have to be made available. ■

On 24 August, the UNDRO team arrived in Jordan. One of its members who drove to the transit camp on the Iraqi-Jordanian border that same day reports.

It was an incredible sight. A bleak stretch of Jordanian desert in the middle of nowhere had overnight become a teeming transit point for tens of thousands of people. Men, women and children huddled together in make-shift shelters against the scorching sun. Hundreds more were pouring in every minute from a variety of vehicles, buses, trucks and cars which had made the long journey to Jordan from Kuwait city.

This was August 24, my first day in Jordan. During the dusty four-hour drive from Amman to Shalan on the Jordan-Iraqi border, I had already crossed caravans of cars with Kuwaiti plates, choking with refugees, mostly Egyptians on their homes. But nothing that I had seen on the way had prepared me for the misery, suffering and utter helplessness of the people at the Shalan border camp.

They lay around in the hot, dusty desert that extended out of sight, their only shelter from the blazing sun a blanket or two stretched across piles of suitcases. Many were in a pitiable state - the Indian mother crying desperately while she tried to shade her three-month baby from the sun with her own body, two other children lying semi-comatose not far away. Every available expanse of sand was occupied and I had to tread my way carefully through huddles of humanity and piles of rubbish strewn all around. The stench was nauseating; and it was clear that the threat of an epidemic was real. Obviously, these people needed urgent help. Every minute wasted could mean a life lost. The solitary clinic in one of the few available tents could not cope. First aid kits and drugs were insufficient. The Jordanian volunteers appeared overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of the problem.

What I saw at Shalan brought back memories of the Ethiopian camps I saw during the great famine some years ago. I thought then that such a tragedy should never be allowed to repeat itself. Yet it seemed to be here again, before my very eyes.

(The UNDRO delegate immediately returned to Amman and what he had seen helped to mobilize a relief action that averted what could have been a major human tragedy).

Makeshift shelter in Shalan 1

When once the magnitude of the human tragedy became clear, United Nations agencies and Non-Governmental organizations mobilized relief aid to the hundreds of thousands of displaced persons in Jordan. Each agency pitched in, rushing supplies and assistance ranging from food, medicines, transport and even legal advice to those in need of such guidance.

The UN agencies involved in the relief effort were:

UNDP's Resident Representative, at the same time UNDRO representative and UN Resident Co-ordinator, played a major role in the co-ordination effort. He and his office facilitated contacts with the host Government, with donors and NGO's. UNDP premises were put at the disposal of UNDRO and used as a central point for co-ordination meetings.

Daily life in Shalan 3 (Mercy Camp)

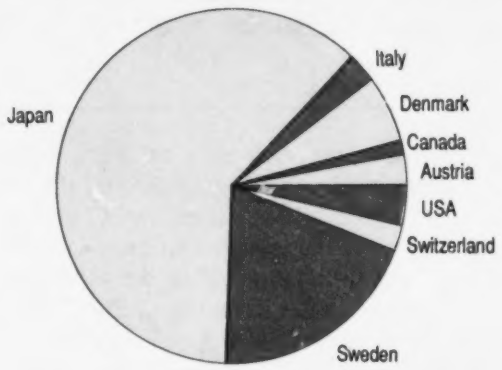
UNICEF provided technical guidance and supervision to ensure that evacuees camp sites were well laid-out and organized - and in particular, that water supply and sanitation facilities were adequate. UNICEF engineers are still working on the ground to prepare sites for winter and rainy conditions, in case of further evacuee movements.

By 25 October, the value of UNICEF assistance to the emergency programme totalled US $2 million. UNICEF worked jointly with many agencies at camp level - with UNRWA at Andalus camp, and with the NGO International Rescue Committee (IRC) at Azraq 2 camp - to install water supply systems and sanitation facilities. It responded to requests for material and financial support from such agencies as the Jordanian Red Crescent, Médecins sans Frontières, the Queen Alia Fund, the Middle East Council of Churches and Save the Children Fund to help their camp-level activities. Computers were provided to the Co-ordinating Committee, and one was loaned to UNDRO, to facilitate information retrieval and dissemination. UNICEF drug kits have gone to UNRWA health teams, and cash support was also provided to assist national authorities meet local emergency-related costs.

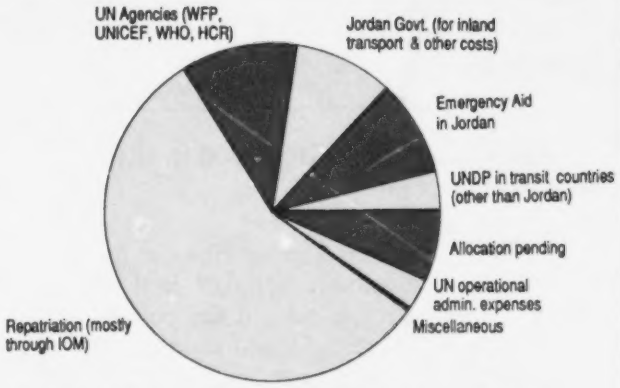
UNRWA provided a health team to the transit camp located in the International Exhibition Centre in Amman. It also distributed food to this camp (23 August-16 Sept.) and to another reception point, located near Amman airport (31 August-16 Sept.) UNRWA also gave logistic support, (trucking, customs clearance, loading and off-loading of relief supplies) for the Government of Jordan, WFP, UNICEF, IRC and MECC.

UNHCR's efforts focused on legal assistance and protection, including the determination of refugee status and the setting up of an assistance project. This project was designed to meet the temporary needs of

Contributions Pledged to/Received by UNDRO at 31/10/90



Disbursement of Contributions Pledged to/Received by UNDRO at 31/10/90


UN Agencies (WFP, UNICEF, WHO, HCR)
Jordan Govt. (for inland transport & other costs)
Emergency Aid in Jordan
UNDP in transit countries (other than Jordan)
Allocation pending
UN operational admin. expenses
Miscellaneous
Repatriation (mostly through IOM)

Total contributions recorded by UNDRO for the region (at 31 October 1990): US $483 million, of which contributions for transit in Jordan: US $173 million. Cash contributions through UNDRO: US $32,542,039.

10,000 people considered as refugees. Emergency supplies were stocked to meet future contingencies. In addition UNHCR supported UNDRO's activities by undertaking a mission on camp management and providing staff.

WFP stocks for development projects in Jordan were utilized in response to Jordan's appeal. Two further emergency food aid operations were carried out to meet the needs of about 120,000 evacuees over a three-month period. As part of a contingency plan, a regional emergency stock was set in Cyprus. In addition, WFP transported and delivered Japanese donations of food and other relief suppiles and wheat from the EEC.

WHO provided basic and complementary health kits, water and sanitation equipment and supplies. It later set up an environmental health project including vector and insect control in the camps and first-aid stations along the Iraqi border to Aqaba, and assited the Jordanian Ministry of Health in replenishing part of medical stocks used during the emergency phase. No epidemics were reported. A contingency plan was prepared.

Major NGO's involved were:

ICRC: in view of the number of people transiting through Jordan, and the difficult climatic and sanitary conditions, the ICRC proposed to Jordanian authorities the setting up of a transit camp in a more adequate location than the border area. The camp Azraq 1 was thus set up to receive 25,000. In co-operation with the Jordanian Red Crescent, the ICRC provided water, food, sanitation, medical care, and kitchen utensils. The camp, adapted to face winter conditions will be handed over to the LRCS in November.

LRCS/Jordanian Red Crescent: the League has been involved mainly in a liaising capacity. Generous response to an LRCS appeal enabled the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) to provide medical services in the early stages of the operation. Camp and transit centres, sometimes on a provisional basis were created in the border area between Iraq and Jordan and in Aqaba. The camp Azraq 2 was built and independently operated by the Red Cross/Red Crescent. At a later stage, Care International supplied stoves and kitchen sets and UNICEF contributed mattresses and detergents. The JNRCS also provided medical services in Azraq 1 (run by ICRC).

Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund established the Andalus Camp to help meet evacuees' basic needs. The Fund also participated in co-ordinating a communications service to enable evacuees to speak with their relatives in their native country. Princess Rasma's Center for Social Services in Aqaba was converted into a liaison office for relief services to co-ordinate with local commissions.

MSF Europe provided medical and sanitation facilities as well as temporary shelter. More than 200,000 people from Bangladesh, India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand, spent a few days in the MSF Europe camp. On October 20, the camp was handed over to the Jordanian authorities.

Médecins du Monde provided medical assistance by giving consultations at Andalus camp, International Fair camp, Mercy camp and the airports of Queen Alia and Marka and by undertaking medical escorts on behalf of IOM.

Middle East Council of Churches: NGOs involved included Caritas, CRS, the Pontifical Mission, Save the Children, and Quakers. A strategy was adopted to decentralize the camp Shalan 1 and to set up another camp between Shalan 1 and Shalan 2 with on-the-spot contribution from the Mennonites, the Pontifical Mission, CRS, Save the Children, CARE, the Jordan Chaplaincy and Concern, for the purchase of tents. A contingency plan was prepared to accomodate more people in case of a further inflow (tents to be provided by Danish Church Aid, Christian Aid and Diakonische Werke).

The following NGO's also contributed: OXFAM, CRS, World Relief International, World Vision of Britain, IRC and Radda Barnen (Sweden).

UNDRO chartered Antonov flies Bangladeshis home

The world's biggest cargo plane, the Soviet-made Antonov AN-124, played an essential role in the evacuation of a number of displaced Bangladeshi nationals who had fled to Jordan. In early September, as the conditions in the Jordanian transit camps deteriorated and the flow of evacuees showed no signs of abating, the UNDRO delegates in Amman called for immediate action to evacuate the greatest number of people in the shortest possible time. UNDRO took a prompt decision to charter an aircraft capable of transporting up to 500 people at time. While not designed for passengers, the Antonov proved to be an innovative if not very comfortable solution. As it had no seats, the aircraft was out-fitted to accomodate an average of 450 persons and their meagre luggage, and for several thousand Bangladesh nationals it provided a safe ands speedy return to their homeland.

While catering for the largest number of "passengers", the Antonov proved to be almost 50% cheaper than any other available aircraft. The cost of repatriation per person amounted to US $450 as opposed to US $850 by normal passenger aircraft. In addition, the Antonov did not make the return journey from Dacca to Amman with an empty hold: it carried back up to 120 tons of rice donated by WFP and the Government of Bangladesh on each return flight, thereby saving WFP an estimated US $1 million in transport costs.

With IOM's assistance, the first plane-load of evacuees left Amman on 3 September and the last evacuation flight took place on 19 September with 439 passengers.

Altogether, the Antonov made eight sorties to transport a total of 3,600 Bangladeshis. Under normal circumstances, the eight-hour flight would have been an ordeal for the "passengers", but as they squatted silently in irregular rows on the craft floor, a look of eager anticipation on their faces, it was clear that they were happy to be aboard, on their way home. ■

Although the large majority of third-country nationals (over 700,000) were evacuated through Jordan, the Hashemite Kingdom was by no means the only transit country involved. The other four Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Turkey contributed significantly in assisting large numbers of evacuees, incurring considerable expenses in the process.

Iran

Well over 100,000 persons are estimated to have entered or passed through the Islamic Republic of Iran. They included Iranian nationals returning from Kuwait, Kuwaiti refugees and approximately 30,000 third-country nationals mostly Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Still recovering from the June earthquake, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran was notable in its efforts to provide internal transport and general relief assistance to the evacuees.

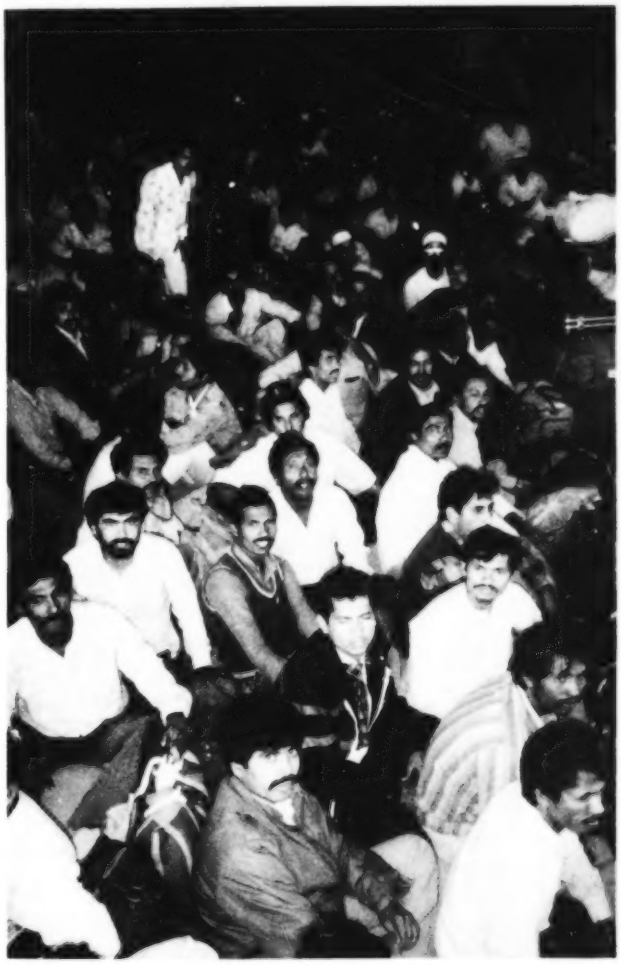
With a contribution from the Danish Government, UNDRO/UNDP set up an assistance programme including shelter, food, warm clothing, transport, medical support and, in conjuction with IOM, final repatriation of the evacuees to their countries of origin.

Saudi Arabia

The Government of Saudi Arabia was extremely generous in responding to the needs of large numbers of evacuees and in providing for their repatriation. In particular, Saudi Arabia paid for the transport of some 300,000 Egyptians from the Jordanian port of Aqaba back to Egypt. The Government met all the shelter, food, transportation and medical care requirements of all those entering its territory.

Syria

At the beginning of the crisis, the Government of Syria set up a Ministerial Emergency Committee to deal with the co-ordination of returnee/evacuee movement. Reports indicated that 50,000 Syrians had returned from Kuwait as well as 10,000 third-country nationals, mostly of Lebanese and Palestinian origin. Five centres - one at the Jordan-Syrian border, one at the Iraqi-Syrian border, two in Damascus and one in Tartous (on the Mediterranean) - have been set up



Inside the Antonov

to cope with about 20,000 displaced for an average stay of five days, pending final repatriation.

Turkey

The turkish Government and the local Red Crescent Society (along with concerned embassies in Ankara) attended fully to the needs of evacuees entering the Turkish territory from Iraq and Kuwait. In particular, the Turkish Red Crescent Society covered all food needs, serving hot meals three times a day. Among other relief measures, the Government exempted third-country nationals from visa fees and all planes transporting displaced persons from airport taxes. Since 5 September, about 60,000 third nationals are estimated to have cross into Turkey, where the Government set up a transit camp at Habur. The authorities intend to keep the existing facilities open to cope with any new large influx of evacuees.

The UNDRO/UNDP Resident Representative kept in close touch with the authorities. IOM and the EEC, in collaboration with the Turkish Government, carried out the repatriation of large numbers of evacuees back to their countries of origin.

Replenishment of depleted resources urged for Jordan and Iran

At a meeting in Geneva on 19 October, UNDRO and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Sadruddin Aga Khan, presented to donor governments a regional plan of action in prevision of possible new flows of evacuees. This included an urgent request to the international community to replenish the depleted resources of two of the transit countries, namely Jordan and Iran, to enable them to face emergencies. Jordan in particular took the brunt of the crisis and dealt with it in a truly humanitarian way, using its own limited resources to provide food, shelter, medical relief and internal transportation to the displaced persons. The replenishment of these resources is an indispensable precondition in order to ensure that the Government remains in a position to cooperate fully in any future wave of displacement. The immediate replenishment needs amount to US $50 million for Jordan and US $1.5 million for Iran.

Plan of Action for Transit Countries

While the first wave of over 700,000 evacuees have been repatriated, the highly unstable situation in the region may well lead portions of the foreign population still left in Kuwait and Iraq to cross into neighbouring countries. This foreign population is estimated to be around one million in Iraq and almost 60,000 in Kuwait. To meet this eventuality, the United Nations has presented a regional Plan of Action for the transit countries. The Plan calls for assistance for current emergency needs and prepares for different scenarios.

The Plan of Action emphasizes the case of Jordan since it is generally recognized that Jordan is likely to continue to be a potential major recipient of evacuees. Less detailed plans of action have been prepared for the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria.

Evacuees in transit at Amman's International Trade Fare

A Serious Blow to the Economies of the Affected Countries

The forced exodus of third country nationals represented not only a personal catastrophe for the individuals concerned but also a heavy financial and economic burden for their governments. The foreign workers who left Kuwait and Iraq lost their jobs, possessions and savings to return to their countries of origin with a bleak and uncertain future ahead. In many cases, their social and economic reintegration may prove very difficult.

Most of the affected governments incurred very significant outlays in the repatriation and rehabilitation of their nationals. Being developing countries with weak economies, they suffered severely from the abrupt drying up of an important source of foreign exchange from the remittances of their nationals working in Iraq and Kuwait. In addition, they faced losses in exports to these countries and a steep increase in the price of petroleum products. This has already led to a deterioration of the balance of payments and to domestic inflation.

These repercussions are of course not covered by UNDRO's mandate. Reintegration of returning workers is a matter where the International Labour Office assists, while the larger economic issues are for the development oriented agencies and the international financial institutions. UNDRO has been in contact with ILO, UNDP and the World Bank on these matters. The international community is called upon to assist the hardest-hit countries, among them Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Yemen. ■

Acronyms of UN Bodies and NGOs mentioned in the text

United Nations Bodies

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme;

UNICEF: United Nations Children Fund;

UNRWA: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

UNDRO: United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (Office of the);

UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Office of the);

WFP: World Food Programme;

ILO: International Labour Organization;

WHO: World Health Organization;

Non-Governmental Organizations

ICRC: International Committee of the Red Cross;

LRCS: League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;

MSF: Médecins sans Frontières;

MECC: Middle East Council of Churches;

CRS: Catholic Relief Services;

IRC: International Rescue Committee;

JNRCS: Jordan National Red Crescent Society.